

Testimony in Support of SB 425
"AN ACT CONCERNING A BASIC HEALTH PROGRAM
The Rev. Bonita Grubbs

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Members of the Public Health Committee:

One of THE most basic rights I believe we have is affordable, accessible and adequate health care for all individuals regardless of their ability to pay.

I believe this so much that I have committed myself to advocating for health care reform in many ways – in my role as executive director of an ecumenical social service organization that works with people who are poor and homeless, as a member of the predecessor Sustinet Board, as a member of the Interfaith Fellowship for Universal Health Care and, currently, as a member of the Sustinet Health Care Cabinet.

I realize that creating a system that guarantees these rights is difficult to guarantee – because of the varied and complex ways in health care is delivered – but worthwhile to pursue.

In the past, members of this Committee have taken bold action to do so, by passing Sustinet legislation, approving health care coverage for Low Income Adults and continuing to provide coverage for women and children.

SB 425 is a current and strong way to continue this commitment. I would urge you to support this legislation. It is an opportunity to provide good health care to about 75,000 adults with incomes between 133% and 200% of the federal poverty level at less cost to the consumer. It also is an option under federal health care reform designed to provide an affordable alternative to **purchasing insurance in the Health Insurance Exchange for people of low-income in high cost states like Connecticut.**

I know that the Malloy Administration has determined that passing such a bill is premature. However, given the fact that CT could be a leader in implementing the Program by taking cutting edge actions that could save \$50 million in State Medicaid funding, it seems to me that the time is now for such actions to be taken.

In the name of CT taking fullest advantage possible of federal health care innovations, creating a responsive system and, most of all, providing health care to those who need health care, I urge your positive consideration and action. Thank you.

